

8 April 2020

Mr. John Maggs
Clean Shipping Coalition

Mr. Daniel Mittler
Greenpeace International

Ms. Madeline Rose
Pacific Environment

Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal
WWF International

Dear Messrs. Maggs, Mittler, Vidal and Ms. Rose,

I wish to acknowledge your letter, dated 6 April 2020, suggesting various ways to proceed with the GHG reduction from ships in response to the postponement of MEPC 75.

Firstly, I appreciate contributions by your organizations to IMO, particularly related to the active participation on GHG issues.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the primary focus of the IMO Secretariat at present is on all efforts on contributing to global solutions for actively assisting in addressing the challenges the shipping industry is facing as a result of the pandemic, and maintain the flow of global trade which is essential to countries in receiving the necessary medical supplies, food and equipment they need to combat and overcome the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the reduction of GHG emissions from ships remains one of the highest priority issues at IMO. Although MEPC 75 has been postponed, I am confident that IMO will implement its initial GHG Strategy as agreed, within the timeline established in the Strategy.

In addition, technical and operational measures will be agreed as part of the short-term measures, and research and development on low-and zero-carbon fuels continues to play an important roles in achieving the IMO GHG Strategy.

IMO is continuously monitoring the very dynamic developments related to COVID-19 in relation to the possibilities to reschedule meetings as soon as practicably and safely possible. To that end, the IMO Council, in extraordinary sessions held by correspondence, is actively examining the issue of schedule reconstruction, including the development of a priority list for scheduling once live meetings can resume. In the view of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all IMO organs, rescheduling of MEPC 75 and the ISWG GHG-7 working group are of the highest priority. The next extraordinary session of the Council will be considering the priority list in detail.



I encourage you to submit your views to the Council in the form of a document for their consideration.

With respect to the potential for remote meetings, the Organization does not presently have the capability to hold a virtual meeting for the number of participants that normally attend an MEPC session. A significant challenge in this regard is the requirement for simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the IMO. The Secretariat is examining possible remote meeting modalities, including the equipment, legal and logistical arrangements that would need to be put in place to successfully conduct the meetings and take decisions by the Member States.

I look forward to further contribution and cooperation from your organizations to achieve our common goals.

Yours sincerely,

Kitack Lim
Secretary-General